

MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

---

Number 155

LIBRARY  
STATE PLANT BOARD

March, 1927

---

TAXONOMIC INVESTIGATIONS

S. A. Rohwer, Entomologist, in Charge

Dr. E. A. Chapin spent March 3, 4 and 5 in Philadelphia, studying types of Coleoptera, especially those belonging to the genus Ptilodactyla. Since his return to Washington he has completed a short paper on Ptilodactyla, describing new species, one of which is injurious to roses in greenhouses.

Dr. H. E. Ewing left March 16 for a trip to Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Louisiana, to make field observations on scorpions. He hopes to determine some means of controlling the species which frequent dwellings, and to obtain material for the Museum collection. In Louisiana he hopes to obtain specimens of adult chiggers, so as to continue his experiments on their life history and habits. He expects to return to Washington early in May.

F. Nevermann, of Costa Rica, spent three days of the week of March 21 in Washington. While here he became acquainted with the various specialists in the Taxonomic Division, examined the collections, and consulted about specimens which he had forwarded. Mr. Nevermann is a very good field observer, and has sent to the specialists interesting specimens of Coleoptera, and many ants and termites. He has a large collection of Costa Rican Coleoptera, which numbers about 5,000 species.

P. W. Fattig, curator of the museum of Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., recently spent a week in Washington, consulting with the specialists in the Section of Insects, getting many specimens of insects determined, and arranging to send other specimens as a gift to the Museum collection and for determination.

J. H. Knull, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Harrisburg, Pa., visited the Section of Insects on March 29 and 30 and examined types of Buprestidae and Cerambycidae in the collection, especially the species which were described by Casey.

During the month of March, Dr. Böving has studied the larvae of the family Mylabridae, and has completed a short paper describing the larvae and keying out the species which are represented in the National Collection. From this study Dr. Böving is able to separate very satisfactorily the larvae of many of the common species of weevils of the genus Mylabris.

## STORED-PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

E. A. Back, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

Each month some questions are received in correspondence that are difficult to answer. One drug company in Tennessee, which had found living dermestids in an "air-tight" bottle of cantharides, asks, "Do insects or animals live after death"?

Information has been received in the past month that Farmers' Bulletin 1353, "Clothes Moths and Their Control," has passed through five editions, totaling 240,000 copies. "Insect Control in Upholstered Furniture," published in the magazine of the National Furniture Warehousemen's Association, has been printed as a separate, in an edition of 12,000 copies, and the Bureau has been presented with a supply to assist in its correspondence.

Experiments were completed in March which indicate that the East Indian woods known as "kamfer" and "lagan," when made into chests have no value as protectors against clothes moths. A supply of these woods was sent to the Bureau from Batavia by N. V. Houthandel Singkel, of Holland.

Congressman Clay Stone Briggs, of Galveston, Tex., has been requested by the Galveston Chamber of Commerce to express its appreciation of the prompt manner in which the Bureau of Entomology responded to its call for assistance in connection with insect infestations, and has also spoken highly of the services rendered by C. P. Trotter, Assistant Plant Quarantine Inspector, of the Federal Horticultural Board, in connection with the inspection and fumigation of ships carrying export flour.

Samuel C. Prescott, Professor of Industrial Biology, Department of Biology and Public Health, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has been good enough in the past month to furnish this Bureau with a copy of his report upon experiments with one of the well known mothproofing solutions now on the market. Several years ago Professor Prescott visited the Bureau to consult with specialists about rearing stored-product insects needed for the conduct of investigations for private business firms. It is interesting to note that private business, by paying for such investigation, can have experiments conducted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that have a special bearing upon their problem, and can obtain an official report signed by Professor Prescott.

Instead of Federal inspection and certification of flour entering into export trade, a private enterprise known as the Millers' Export Inspection Bureau has been formed by Joseph V. Lane, of New York, and R. W. Lightburne, of Kansas City. These men are in the flour-insurance business. Insurance companies that have been insuring export flour have included in their policies, among other things, a so-called "bug clause" that has covered losses due to the development of stored-product pests during transit and storage, from the time the flour leaves the flour mill until it is accepted by the purchaser. The recent heavy claims against insurance companies resulting from insect attack have brought home to these companies the fact that heretofore they have been insuring flour against damage by insects without having the slightest knowledge regarding the insect sanitation of the establishments or warehouses from which the flour started on its journey, or of the condition of the rail-

road rolling stock or of ships used in transporting flour from the United States to other countries. Realizing the shortcomings of such a procedure, interested parties have been seeking a plan the operation of which would place full information in the hands of both the exporting miller and the insuring company. At first it was thought that some system of Federal inspection and certification might prove satisfactory. But the newly formed Millers' Export Inspection Bureau seems far more practical. Entomologists will be interested in knowing that Prof. George A. Dean will serve as Consulting Entomologist for the Millers' Export Inspection Bureau, and that the expenses of this newly formed Bureau will include not only the salaries of Messrs. Lane and Lightburne, insurance specialists, the incidental cost of inspection of flour at Galveston and New Orleans, and clerk hire and other office items, but also the salary of an entomologist. The duties of this official will be to keep the Bureau thoroughly informed regarding all phases of entomology that may in any way affect its business. His principal work undoubtedly will be the periodic inspection of flour mills and checking up on the control measures found necessary to put the mills in the best possible condition.

---

#### TRUCK-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. E. Graf, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

J. E. Graf returned to Washington on March 14, from a field inspection trip which included most of the far western and southern laboratories.

J. N. Tenhet was transferred March 5 from Clarksville, Tenn., to Chadbourn, N. C.

L. W. Brannon returned to Birmingham, Ala., March 16, from his temporary assignment with the Federal Horticultural Board, scouting for the pink bollworm.

F. W. Poos, entomologist of the Virginia Truck Experiment Station, Norfolk, Va., visited this division on March 16 to discuss studies on the potato tuber moth which he is conducting for the State of Virginia.

Walter Carter, Twin Falls, Idaho, visited points in Oregon and California about the middle of March, conferred with Experiment Station officials and others regarding the sugar-beet leafhopper, and made preliminary plans for undertaking work in Oregon on this pest.

N. F. Howard, associate entomologist, and D. M. DeLong, professor of entomology, Ohio State University, and a collaborator of this division, recently left Columbus, Ohio, to visit points in the southeastern United States to study bean insects.

W. H. White left Washington March 23, for Sanford, Fla., to discuss the celery leaf-tyer investigations there with Messrs. Ball, Boyden, and Stone. En route to Washington, Mr. White expects to visit Chadbourn, N. C., to confer with Messrs. Thomas and Reid about the work in progress at that place on the strawberry weevil and the seed corn maggot.

## CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. H. Larrimer, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

George M. Stirrett, in charge of European corn borer investigations for the Entomological Branch, Dominion of Canada, was at the Arlington, Mass., laboratory for consultation on March 15, 16 and 17. After leaving Arlington, he visited the corn borer laboratories of the Bureau at Silver Creek, N. Y., Sandusky, Ohio, and Monroe, Mich.

L. H. Patch, of the Sandusky, Ohio, corn borer laboratory, was at Arlington, Mass., on March 16 and 17, for consultation regarding the research work in the Ohio area during the coming season.

K. A. Bartlett and N. J. Nerney, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, have been employed as temporary assistants at the Arlington, Mass., laboratory. Albert Balzar and Carl Flood reported for duty at the Monroe, Mich., laboratory on March 15.

T. E. Holloway attended the meetings of the International Society of Sugar Cane Technologists, held in Havana, Cuba, during the week of March 14. At the end of the meetings he visited the Cuba Sugar Club Experiment Station, which is under the auspices of the Tropical Plant Research Foundation, and conferred with D. L. Van Dine, director, and C. F. Stahl and H. K. Plank, entomologists. The main station is at Baragua, but special attention was paid to the work being conducted by Mr. Plank at Jaronu on the control of the sugar cane moth borer. For most of the travel in Cuba advantage was taken of a special train, provided by the Cuban Government to afford the delegates a tour of the island.

The location of the Monroe, Mich., laboratory has been changed to 308 West Elm Avenue, Monroe, Mich.

W. A. Baker, of the Arlington, Mass., laboratory, and L. C. Woodruff, of the Charlottesville, Va., laboratory, spent a few days in Washington in March, in the preparation of manuscripts.

C. C. Hill, of the Carlisle, Pa., laboratory, spent March 30 in Washington in consultation with Bureau and Museum specialists, and in library research in connection with work on parasites of the Hessian fly.

Dr. W. R. Thompson expects to leave shortly for Paris, for conference with American agricultural officials in regard to the European corn borer. He will be accompanied by K. W. Babcock.

Shipments from Europe to the United States of parasites and parasitized larvae of Pyrausta nubilalis are steadily being made. For the present fiscal year to date shipments have been as follows: Eulimneria crassifemur, 29,534; Angitia punctoria, 11,209; Phaeogenes planifrons, 17,017; Microgaster tibialis, 127,680; Masicera senilis, 1,652; parasitized larvae bearing various percentages of other species, 1,242,000.

## DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Associate Chief of Bureau, in Charge

Dr. F. H. Lathrop, in charge of the Bureau's blueberry maggot investigations, who has been in Washington for several months, has now returned to his permanent headquarters at Cherryfield, Me. C. B. Nickels, associated with Dr. Lathrop, has also returned to Cherryfield, after spending several months in Washington.

Oliver I. Snapp, of the peach insect laboratory at Fort Valley, Ga., recently met with fruit growers at Marshallville, Ga., and discussed the oriental peach moth.

---

## FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. C. Craighead, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

On March 14 Dr. F. C. Craighead left Washington for a short trip to Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina, to review the work in progress there on certain problems of the Division concerned with the attack of forest insects on pines in the Southern States, and to plan the field work in those States for the coming year, returning at the end of the month.

L. G. Baumhofer recently returned to his summer field station at Halsey, Nebr., to continue his studies on the pine tip moth.

---

## JAPANESE BEETLE INVESTIGATIONS

Loren B. Smith, Entomologist, in Charge

On March 2, E. R. Van Leeuwen addressed the Rotary Club of Rahway, N. J., his subject being "Control measures for the Japanese Beetle."

H. C. Hallock, of the laboratory staff, recently spent three days at the National Museum studying Muscoid flies with Dr. Aldrich.

J. L. King recently returned to resume his duties at the laboratory, after a leave of absence spent in graduate study at Ohio State University.

In March a large shipment of 20,000 Tiphia cocoons from Assam, India, arrived at the Japanese Beetle Laboratory.

T. R. Gardner will leave Riverton on April 5 for Yokohama, Japan, where he will continue his work on parasite investigations with reference to the Japanese beetle.

## BEE CULTURE INVESTIGATIONS

James I. Hambleton, Apiculturist, in Charge

On March 22, Dr. A. P. Sturtevant, in charge of the Intermountain Bee Culture Field Station, gave a radio talk in connection with the program broadcast by the American Honey Producers' League from Laramie, Wyo.

Recent visitors at the Bee Culture Laboratory included Prof. Francis Jager, of the University of Minnesota, and C. L. Sams, Specialist in Bee-keeping, of the North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Engineering.

---

## TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL PLANT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. C. Baker, Senior Entomologist, in Charge

During December last Dr. A. C. Baker was in Sacramento, Calif., as consultant on the citrus white fly campaigns contemplated in that State. After a method of procedure had been decided on, he visited the citrus regions in Southern California, and conferred with entomologists of various California institutions. Returning by the southern route, he spent some time at the laboratories in New Orleans and Orlando in order to review the projects under investigation, and reached Washington early in March.

---

## LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

## NEW BOOKS

Bedford, G. A. H.

Check-list of the Muscidae and Cestridae which cause myiasis in man and animals in South Africa. (Union of South Africa Dept. Agr. Dir. Vet. Ed. and Research. Rpt. 11-12, Pt. 1, p. 483-498, Sept. 1926.)

Bedford, G. A. H.

Check-list and host list of the external parasites found on South African mammalia, aves and reptiles. (Union of South Africa Dept. Agr. Dir. Vet. Ed. and Research. Rpt. 11-12, Pt. 1, p. 705-817, Sept. 1926.)

Brown, F. M.

Descriptions of new bacteria found in insects. (American Museum Novitates No. 251, Feb. 21, 1927. 11 p.)

- Central Cooperative Anti-malarial Society, Ltd.  
Sixth Annual report. 78, 49 [10] p. ports. Society's Office,  
Calcutta, 1926.
- The construction of dipping tanks for cattle. Revised January, 1927.  
(Rhodesia Agr. Jour. v. 24, No. 1, p. 63-82, Jan. 1927.)
- Covell, G.  
The distribution of anopheline mosquitoes in India and Ceylon. 85 p.  
37 maps. Thacker, Spink & Co., Calcutta, Feb. 1927. (Indian Med.  
Research Memoirs No. 5.)
- Dahl, Friedrich.  
Die Tierwelt Deutschlands und der angrenzenden Meeresteile nach ihren  
Merkmalen und nach ihrer Lebensweise. 3 Th. Springspinnen (Saltici-  
dae). 55 p., illus. Fischer, Jena, 1926.
- Duda, Oswald.  
Monographie der Sepsiden (Dipt.) I-II. (Annalen des Naturhistorischen  
Museums in Wien, v. 39, p. 1-152, 1925, and v. 40, p. 1-110, 1926.  
illus., pl.)
- Folia Myrmecologica et Termitologica v. 1, No. 1, Oct. 1926 [monthly]. Hus-  
siten-Druckerei, Bernau bei Berlin, 1926.
- Gibbs, C. S., and Ken, Chen.  
Flacherie, or "wilt disease" of silkworms. (Reprinted from the China  
Journal of Science and Arts, v. 5, No. 2, p. 83-87, Aug., 1926, as  
Nanking College of Agr. and Forestry Pubs.: Bul. 14.)
- The grub pest (larvae of Tipulidae) and Paris green as a remedy. (West of  
Scotland Agr. Col. Rept. 18 (Bul. 103) p. 149-157, Glasgow, 1926.)
- Hacker, H. P.  
How oil kills Anopheles larvae. 62 p., plates. John Bale, Sons &  
Danielsson, Ltd., 1925. (Federated Malay States Malaria Bureau Re-  
ports, v. 3.)
- International Institute of Agriculture, Rome.  
The International Institute of Agriculture; general policy and activi-  
ties. Statement presented to the general assembly of 1926. 86 p.,  
fold. tab. Printing office of the International Institute of Agricul-  
ture, Rome, 1926.
- Knoll, Fritz.  
Insekten und Blumen. Experimentelle Arbeitung zur Vertiefung unserer  
Kenntnisse über die Wechselbeziehungen zwischen Pflanzen und Tieren.  
Hft. 3 (Schlussheft): IV. Die Arum-blütenstände und ihre Besucher.  
V. Über den Blütenbesuch der Honigbiene. VI. Die Erfolge der experi-  
mentellen Blütenökologie. 383-645 p., illus., pl (Abhandlungen  
der Zool. Bot. Gesells. in Wien, Bd. 12, Hft. 3, 1926.)
- Leonardi, G.  
Elenco delle specie di insetti dannosi e loro parassiti ricordati in  
Italia fino all' anno 1911. Parte II, fasc. III. (Ann. Regio Insti-  
tuto Superiore Agrario di Portici, ser. 3, v. 1, p. 148-407, July 20,  
1926.)
- Maublanc, André,  
Les champignons comestibles et vénéneux. Ed. 2. cxxiv, 120 p., 96  
col. pl. Paul Lechevalier, Paris, 1926. (Encyclopedie pratique du  
Naturaliste, v. 22.)



Maulik, S.

Coleoptera-Chrysomelidae (Chrysomelinae and Halticinae). 442 p., illus., fold. map. Taylor & Francis, London, Apr. 1926. (Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma.)

Nebraska Bee Tidings, v. 1, No. 1, March, 1927. Lincoln, Neb., March, 1927.

Owned and operated by the Nebraska Honey Producers Association, Don B. Whelan, Sec-Treas.

Querul, Emile.

Manuel pratique de la legislation apicole. 202 p. Grande Imprimerie de Troyes, Troyes, 1926.

Rössler, Richard.

Die verbreitetsten Schmetterlinge Deutschlands. Eine Anleitung zum Bestimmen der Arten. 170 p., 2 pl. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1896.

Schreiter, Rodolfo.

Sphingidae. Estudio sobre las especies Tucumanas de esta familia. 24 p. 22 pl. "Com.", Buenos Aires, 1926. (Universidad Nacional de Tucuman. Museo de Hist. Nat., No. 9.)

Schulze, F. E.

Nomenclator animalium generum et subgenerum im Auftrage der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin. Bd. 1, lfg. 4-5. CCCXLIV p. Im Verlage der Preussischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin, Oct. 30-Dec. 30, 1926. Contents: Litteraturverzeichnis.

Spaeth, Franz.

Monographie der zur Gruppe der Coptocyclitae gehö"rigen amerikanischen Cassididen (Col.): I. Die Gattungen mit bekä"mmten Klauen. 108 p. Berlin-Dahlem, Sept. 15, 1926. (Supplementa Entomologica, Nr. 13.)

Step, Edward.

Go to the ant. A popular account of the natural history of ants in all countries. 276 p., pl. Hutchinson & Co., London, 1924.

Thomson, J. A.

The new natural history, v. 3, 769-1152 p., illus., col. pl. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1926.

Williams, L. L. jr., and Cook, S. S.

Paris green applied by airplane in the control of Anopheles production. (U. S. Public Health Reports, v. 42, No. 7, p. 459-480, illus., 2 pl., Feb. 18, 1927.)